Skills for Working in the Community

There are various types of community through the traditional perspective: Place, Function, Middle Ground, Ways of Relating and Social System. The focus varies from tasks, relationships and geography. Skills needed vary some between the different types of communities but are all useful.

**Community Building** – Ability to integrate community development and human service strategies. Be a collaborator of agencies to form partnerships. Be a builder on community strengths. Be cultural competent to promote cultural values and tear down racial barriers. Ability to promote community participation – be a team leader. Be resourceful and knowledgeable about deficits and power structure.

**Social Networking** - Be a builder of networking through social capital. Be a promoter of empowerment approaches to building strong communities. Ability to, first, focus on the individuals and families and build up from there. Be a recognizer of diversity to assess and build social capital and civic culture.

**Social Development** - Be a visionary to plan and make change. Be aware of existing norms and know the system. Be a facilitator to help development of people to work at their fullest ability.

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